[President.]

Kanni crop. The benefit was extended to Kandukrishi and Sripandaravagai lands also. The total remission amounted to Rs 1,09,040. There was also a general remission of 50 per cent. on tax of Re. 1 and below, 12½ per cent. on tax above Re. 1 and total remission of land tax of one chuckram and less in respect of the current arreas for 1113 under Ayacut outstanding on the last day of Karkatakam. The amount thus remitted was Rs 93,858. The above remission was allowed in respect of water cess and irrigation assessment as well, the amount remitted being Rs 3,449. The benefit of these concessions was extended in 1114 to those who had already paid their tax for 1113 and to those who would pay their kists for 1114 at least one month before the close of the year. The amount remitted on this account is estimated at Rs 4,30,668.

A general remission of one half of the demand notice fee was allowed during the first half of 1114 for those who paid their dues before the end of Makaram 1114.

Twenty per cent. remission of the Ayacut demand in the taluks of Thovala, Agastheeswaram (except the pakuthies of Neendakara A and B divisions), and Shenkottah, including Sripandaravaga lands, has been allowed for a period of five years from the second half of 1114. On an average this brings about a remission of Rs 84,400 per annum.

RURAL UPLIFT.

A sum of Rs. 50,000 has been set apart in the budget for the next year for being utilised for rural welfare work. Seven Village Panchayats, constituted under Act VII of 1100, have been in existence for some years, but the results have fallen short of expectations. It is therefore proposed to introduce a scheme to rehabilitate the Village Panchayats. The idea is to have a Village Panchayat for every village. It is proposed to have one Panchayat in every taluk next year. The most suitable village will be selected for the purpose. All the nation-building departments will as far as possible be represented in the Panchayat and the Tahsildar of the taluk will be the chairman. It is expected that the changes now proposed will go a great way in improving the conditions of the villagers.

MARKET TOLLS.

Government also propose to abolish tentatively during the next year the market tolls in respect of head loads weighing less than twenty pounds. It is hoped that this will afford some relief to poor villagers who carry the fruits of their labours to the market and with the proceeds thereof purchase the necessaries of life.

SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER IN SOUTH TRAVANCORE.

About six months ago it was brought to the notice of Government by officials as well as by non-officials that there was scarcity of drinking water in South Travancore as most of the wells in the interior of the taluks had dried up. After carefully investigating the matter a

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small committee was constituted in each of the five taluks to go from village to village, make enquiries as to the sources of water supply and to suggest the deepening or sinking of wells where necessary. A sum of Rs. 10,000 was distributed to the five taluks. The formalities such as preparation of estimates, etc., were dispensed with in order to save delay and the Tahsildars were directed to disburse the amounts in two or three instalments as the works progressed.

With a view to afford a plentiful supply of good water for drinking purposes in areas where its necessity is keenly felt so as to prevent the outbreak of epidemic diseases, particularly cholera and typhoid, Government have resolved that a sum of Rs. 10,000 should be provided in the budget for 1115 to be spent in digging permanent wells in South Travancore and Shencottah. The Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner, the Director of Public Health and the Division Peishkar and the Executive Engineer concerned will form a standing committee for the purpose and will be at liberty to secure the co-operation of non-officials by the formation of committees either for a pakuthi or for a group of pakuthies or for a taluk. The idea is to carry out a three-year programme of sinking such wells.

A sum of Rs 7,500 will be provided in the budget for sinking big wells according to the P. W. D. plan and estimate after scrutiny by the Committee.

An annual expenditure of over Rs 1,000 is now being incurred for the supply of water to the Muttom Village by means of lorries. A scheme based on the tapping of a perennial spring at Attinkarai costing Rs 32,000 is proposed to be worked out. A sum of Rs 25,000 has been provided in the budget for the purpose.

IRRIGATION FACILITIES IN SOUTH TRAVANCORE.

The main source of water supply for irrigation purposes in South Travancore is the Kodayar Project, and it is found that this source is not adequate to meet the requirements particularly in years of partial failure of the monsoon. The possibility of augmenting the supply of water in the Kodayár Reservoir has been considered and an estimate for the investigation of the Perinchani Reservoir Scheme has been sanctioned. The necessary provision has been made in the budget for 1115.

Government have also resolved upon improvements to the existing tanks and have discountenanced their assignment either on registry or on Kuthagapattom. A sum of Rs 25,000 has been provided in the budget for 1115. A similar provision is proposed to be made in subsequent years also, and a standing committee of the Land Revenue Commissioner, the Division Peishkar, Trivandrum, and the Executive Engineer, Southern Division, will carry out the work of improving the tanks and they will be charged with the duty of utilising the amount successfully. They will be at liberty to secure the co-operation of leading non-officials by the formation of committees.

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